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THE 4-H'S ON THE 4-LEAF CLOVER

A radio talk by Mr. C. E. Potter, Field Agent in club work for the Eastern States, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, January 4, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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The emblem of the 4-H clubs is a four leaf clover with an H superimposed upon each petal. The H's on the emblem, as all 4-H club members and leaders know, stand for HEAD, HEART, HAND and HEALTH. The H's are symbolic of the four corner stones upon which the 4-H club program is built. The 4-H clubs for rural youth are a part of the national extension program conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture and the various State agricultural colleges for the purpose of teaching improved methods in farming and homemaking and enriching rural life.

In the development of this program, 4-H club members are given experience in thinking through and planning programs for their own clubs in keeping with the situation in their community. Some of the ways in which 4-H club members learn to meet real problems and make decisions are by working on committees, practicing parliamentary procedures in their club meetings, developing yearly programs, discussing and exchanging experiences regarding agricultural and homemaking methods and debating current problems as they effect their own homes and communities. Through meetings, demonstrations, exhibits, tours and talks, the experiences of these 4-H club members are brought to the attention of others. Through these procedures and many others, rural youth is clarifying his own thinking. He is learning to work with others for a common good. In making decisions, he is using information based upon the best available facts. The 4-H club member is participating in experiences which are fundamental to a democracy. He is a participating citizen of his community. He is training his Head "to think, to plan and to reason."

The spirit of rural youth is portrayed by his love of freedom, his resourcefulness, his ideals of home, his desire to develop a rural leadership, his longing to participate in community affairs and his willingness to assume responsibility for the attainment of his ideals. The voluntary nature of the 4-H club program permits the member to put his HEART into the things which he wishes to accomplish. Production and income from 4-H club projects contribute to the family living, or start a bank account, which may be the nucleus of an educational fund or may provide the means for some other material or spiritual values. Through music festivals, drama tournaments, pageants, games, songs, vesper services and other similar activities, the 4-H clubs provide cultural, inspirational and worthwhile leisure time events which are shared by the club member's family and others in the community. Family ties are made stronger because the club member plans his project and club activities with his parents and other members of the family. Doing with and for others brings the kind of happiness of which all youth dreams and develops a heart that is "kind, sympathetic and true."

"Learning by doing" produces a Hand that is trained and skillful. Growing a field of corn, designing and constructing a garment suited to the

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occasion, feeding and managing animals in order to produce profitable gains, preserving various kinds of fruits, vegetables and meat, protecting and conserving the natural resources of the community are types of projects with which 4-H club members work.

The 4-H club member's work is useful work. He learns good methods. He has the privilege of demonstrating the methods for the benefit of others. The 4-H club member utilizes all the resources about him in order to get information which will help him to apply good farming and homemaking methods. The goals set by the club member in accomplishing a piece of quality work defines his success and the success attained brings satisfaction and joy.

But to what end all of our accomplishments and achievement unless we have health with which to enjoy them. The Health H in the 4-H club program emphasizes the need for a healthy body in order to have a successful life. The community, too, must be a healthy place in which to live. An individual and community health consciousness is developed on the part of 4-H club members through practicing proper health habits, participating in self-improvement health contests and campaigns, and learning what to do in emergencies. Cooperation with the program of the established health agencies is the policy followed, in all of the 4-H Health work.

There is another phase of the Health H that is important - Mental Health. "Winning without bragging and losing without squealing" is a saying that is familiar to all 4-H club members. One must be able to live happily with oneself as well as with others. The thing that counts most for success in life is character.

Thus we have tried to interpret the Hs on the 4-H Club Emblem. May the coming year be profitable and happy to each 4-H club member as he develops the program for his own Head, Heart, Hand and Health.

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